



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-310

Proposal Title: Whiskey Creek & Mississippi River Water Quality/Habitat/Recreation

Project Manager Information

Name: Tim Terrill

Organization: Mississippi Headwaters Board

Office Telephone: (218) 824-1189

Email: timt@mississippiheadwaters.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Project will purchase 13.8 acres and construct water quality, habitat, and recreational improvements to protect the Mississippi River from contaminants in the 400-acre, highly impervious watershed in Baxter Minnesota.

Funds Requested: \$500,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-06-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Central

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Central, Metro, SE,

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

This project will purchase 13.8 acres in the 400-acre, highly impervious, Trunk Highway 371 watershed in Baxter Minnesota. This overall goal is for the city of Baxter to purchase these acres, by utilizing funding administered by the Mississippi Headwaters Board to accomplish this goal. This project needs to be completed so future goals through other grants can be obtained.

Once this funding is obtained and land is purchased by the city of Baxter, future funding can be sought by other agencies. The strategy and contingency for future funding is for the Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District to seek out Clean Water funding from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to implement a water quality stormwater basin which will intercept pollutants from the 400 acre watershed. A feasibility study was already completed for this site, and the stormwater basin and green space will remove 145.7 lbs. of phosphorus, and 84,560 lbs of total suspended solids annually. Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District has agreed to apply for funding in August 2020, and if funded, can begin construction in 2021.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

MHB will work with the City to execute the City's purchase agreement for the 13.8 acres, which, in combination with land currently owned by the City, comprises the 20.6 acres. The cost of this purchase includes attorney, survey, county filing, and apportioned taxes.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The project outcome of this LCCMR project will be to acquire 13.8 for the city of Baxter to maintain and restore with future grants.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Land Acquisition

Activity Budget: \$500,000

Activity Description:

The Mississippi Headwaters Board re-submits this application to the LCCMR for funding for Fee Title Land Acquisition, Personnel Wages, and Professional Services for Acquisition required for the design and construction of a major water quality and habitat improvement project protecting the Mississippi River. The previously-submitted application was selected by the LCCMR for recommended approval during the 2020 legislative session, though the approval was postponed in the regular session and is moving to a planned special session. MHB will work with the City to execute the City’s purchase agreement for the 13.8 acres, which, in combination with land currently owned by the City, comprises the 20.6 acres. The cost of this purchase includes attorney, survey, county filing, and apportioned taxes.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Approval of application by legislature	2021-05-31
Funding awarded to Miss. Headwaters Board	2021-07-31
Work with city attorney to bring about acquisition	2023-06-30

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Brad Chapulis	City of Baxter	accept acquisition, survey, legal, filing with county, title holder	Yes

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

This phase of the project only includes acquisition. Future funding requests will include the remaining project phases to complete the project.

The next phase will include MHB working with the City to contract out engineering and construction services. Local agencies have partnered with MHB and the City of Baxter to form a TAP that will guide the goals for the project, review technical documents, and advise the City during design and construction phases to ensure the project is adhering to permit standards and regulations. This includes the final design plan, environmental permitting, bid specifications, and construction management.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Tim Terrill

Job Title: Executive Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Tim Terrill has an Associates and Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts & Biology (Ecology) from Winona State University, as well as Watershed Management and Conservation Planner certification through the EPA and Natural Resources Conservation Services. Tim brings over eighteen years of experience in the environmental field to his role as Executive Director with the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB).

As the District Manager for the Winona Soil & Water Conservation District, Tim worked with the local farming community to identify and obtain funds that would allow the improve water quality, erosion issues, and pollution issues. He was awarded several accolades: '08 National District Excellence Award for Policy and Grassroots Initiatives from the National Association of Conservation Districts and the '09 Minnesota Soil & Water Conservation Society Merit Award for his district's contribution to the natural resource field. Tim was also Project Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, where he utilized multiple government programs and partnerships to improve water quality. He managed three watershed water quality projects, including the Camp Creek Watershed Project, where he implemented best management practices to control erosion in pasture and cropland that resulted in aquatic habitat alteration.

Mr. Terrill balances many different responsibilities with the MHB, including board development, fiscal management, marketing, public policy development, grant oversight, and program management. He provides remediation assistance and foresight on various projects and their development within the eight-county corridor through grant acquisition and public awareness programs. Tim is responsible for the full oversight of the Whiskey Creek and Mississippi River Habitat and Water Quality Protection Project and the administration of the LCCMR 2020 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

Organization: Mississippi Headwaters Board

Organization Description:

Formed in 1980 as an alternative to designation of the river into the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) works to protect and preserve the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River in

Minnesota.

A joint powers board of Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison Counties, the MHB is mandated by Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-377 to enhance and protect the natural, cultural, historic, scientific, and recreational values of the headwaters region.

MHB achieves its goal of river protection through cooperative land use planning in the eight counties, in conjunction with the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.

MHB promotes water quality monitoring, education, and stewardship activities for shoreland property owners, and embraces the efforts of local citizens, students, and government groups who work together to protect the river in their community and preserve the splendor of this national treasure.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Tim Terrill		Project Coordinator			20%	0.22		\$3,500
City Attorney		Attorney services, Survey Services			20%	27		\$63,300
							Sub Total	\$66,800
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 13.8 Parcels: 1						\$433,200
							Sub Total	\$433,200
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$500,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
Cash	Requesting Clean Water Funds	implementation of water quality and habitat project.	Potential	\$1,195,000
			State Sub Total	\$1,195,000
Non-State				
Cash	City of Baxter funds	For use of fee title acquisition expenses and/or possible match to Clean Water Funds.	Secured	\$75,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$75,000
			Funds Total	\$1,270,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
0336100090F0009 0336100090E0009	Crow Wing	Wetland and pond; this area is a natural habitat for aquatic species and wildlife. This parcel includes the project area and will be converted into a public green space.	Fee Title	13.8	-	\$500,000	Private	City of Baxter	Property Under Contract
Totals				13.8	0	\$500,000			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

In 2013, the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (the Conservation District) conducted an analysis of the Whiskey Creek subwatershed to determine potential locations for effective stormwater quality best management practices and address nutrient and sediment discharges to Whiskey Creek. The proposed site is located within a region with the highest risk factors for impacts on water quality in the county¹. A subsequent feasibility study, conducted in 2014, identified the proposed site as a high value area for water quality treatment efficiency. In the 2015 MHB regional study, this project was ranked second out of 59 projects for the removal of Total Phosphorus.

The parcels are located at the intersection of Golf Course Drive N. and Excelsior Road N., where Whiskey Creek makes its way across the Northland Arboretum before emptying into the Mississippi River. An abandoned golf course currently sits on the parcels. The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society purchased the land for development and signed a purchase agreement to sell 13.8 acres to the City of Baxter for development of a stormwater BMP. The City of Baxter has acquired a purchase agreement for both parcels with the land owner and they have worked together for several years to develop this project.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

The parcels are included in the City of Baxter 2015 Comprehensive Plan, Section 4: Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces. A future trail is identified in the project area on page 4-9 as a Future Bike/Pedestrian Trail.

http://www.baxtermn.gov/download/comprehensive_plan/2015%20Comprehensive%20Plan.pdf

This area is also included in the Whiskey Creek Subwatershed Water Quality Retrofit Analysis published in December 2013 by MHB. <http://www.mississippiheadwaters.org/grants/stormreports/Whiskey%20Creek%20Report.pdf>

The Whiskey Creek area is included in the Crow Wing County Water Plan published in April 2013 by Crow Wing County. <https://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/4696/Part7---Mississippi-River-?bidId=>

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

The project area will be converted from an abandoned golf course to a publicly accessible green space. The project will also restore natural habitat within the 20.6-acre area for aquatic species, pollinators, and native wildlife. MHB and the City of Baxter will work together to restore the area along Whiskey Creek, and to protect the water quality of the Mississippi River from harmful contaminants. The project will convert the parcels into a restored natural habitat, recreational area, and stormwater BMP.

Native seed mix, tree and shrub seedlings, and pollinator mixes will be planted around the stormwater BMP to provide a native buffer and natural habitat in the project area for local wildlife. The City of Baxter will be responsible for overseeing and ensuring the growth and health of the plantings for this project. This includes, but is not limited to, watering during the growing season as required, spot spraying noxious weeds with an approved herbicide, determining and adhering to a mowing schedule following the initial planting of native buffer areas, and repairing any portions that may become damaged.

MHB and the City of Baxter will initiate a relationship with the Minnesota Conservation Corp to plant appropriate pollinator-friendly flower species and native seeds or plugs as they are applicable to the project site. A pollinator

planting restoration management plan will follow the Board of Water & Soil Resources native vegetation establishment guidelines and native species diversity required under Minnesota Statute § 84.973 – Pollinator Habitat Program.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

N/A – These parcels will be owned and maintained by the City of Baxter.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

N/A – These parcels will be owned and maintained by the City of Baxter.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [5a8c2f45-dac.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

On the map there is a project area of 13.8 acres where the acquisition will take place. Some features on the map are State Hwy 371, Whiskey Creek drainage area, Whiskey creek, and the Paul Bunyan Regional Trail.

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
MHB letter of support	1a811b5c-e00.doc

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Northland Arboretum LOS	42bb55ca-bb5.pdf
Brainerd LOS	7af7debf-c77.pdf
Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation Dist. LOS	c56d8c59-aad.pdf
MN Pollution Control Agency LOS	e19fa23b-228.docx
City of Baxter LOS	ae53faa0-bb2.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Fee Acquisition,

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?








No

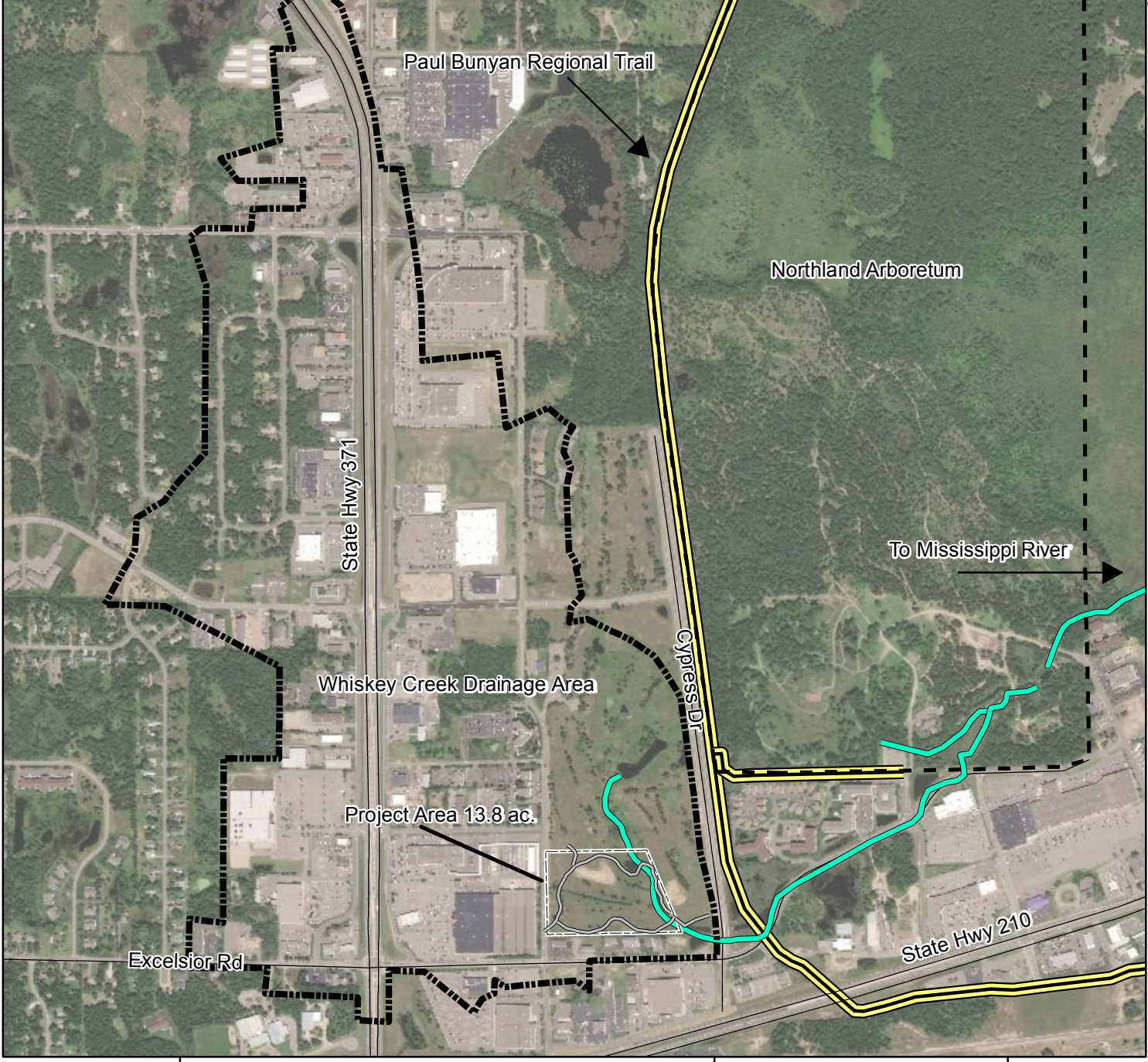
Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Crow Wing County

-  Northland Arboretum
-  Whiskey Creek Drainage Area (400 acres)
-  Trail Connections
-  Project Area 13.8 ac.
-  Whiskey Creek
-  Road
-  Paul Bunyan Regional Trail



Attachment B - Project Area
Whiskey Creek
City of Baxter

